

CLAIMS

- 1.(currently amended) A multi-segment container having ~~a plurality of~~ at least three substantially identical segments in mutually hinged array to form an enclosure, wherein peripheral wall portions of the segments collectively comprise a peripheral wall of the container, and adjoining side wall portions of the segments collectively form a pair of container end walls in mutually spaced relation, each said segment including hinge means for separably connecting each said segment in hinged relation to two adjacent said segments to form said container in a closed condition, and for connecting said three segments of said container in side by side, serially connected open relation detachable engagement with an adjoining segment.
2. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said segment side wall portions each includes a pair of tab portions located outside said segment peripheral wall portion, ~~and~~ said tab portions including elements of said hinge means for separably connecting said segment.
- 3.(original) The container as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said pair of tab portions include a male and a female hinge portion.
4. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said container peripheral wall is substantially continuous when said container is in a closed condition.
5. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said container end walls are substantially continuous when said container is in a closed condition.
- 6.(currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said segment peripheral wall has peripherally extending separation means on the inner surface thereof, in use for separating elements of predetermined size when inserted into the segment.

7.(original) The container as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said separation means are corrugations having spaces of predetermined width therebetween.

8.(original) The container as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said peripheral wall is substantially cylindrical.

9. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said segment side portions include a projecting edge portion to form a stabilizing heel for the container when standing in an upright position .

10. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said segment side portions include raised edge portions forming abutments with adjoining parts of said segment side portions to serve as stabilizing contact surfaces with adjoined said container segments.

11. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said hinge means consist of female and male detent portions in mutually separable ~~removable~~, mutually pivotal, attached relation.

12. (currently amended) The container as set forth in Claim 11, wherein said male and female detent portions are in predetermined mutually spaced apart relation such that, when adjacent said segments are in assembled relation to form a closed container , gaps of predetermined size are created between adjacent surface portions of the said container peripheral wall and between adjacent surface portions of said container end walls, to ventilate the container.